

MEMORIAL MESSENGER September 2018



“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken from her.”

Luke 10:41-42

You are familiar with the details behind what our Savior said to Martha. As she slaved over meal preparations, her sister Mary listened to Jesus’ words. Jesus commended Mary for placing her highest priority on the Word.

“Only one thing is needed.” That, of course, is the news of the Savior and what He has done to rescue us sinners. We get that through God’s Word and in God’s sacraments. Without that truth, there is no faith in Christ. And without faith in Christ, there is only hopelessness and hell.

We shouldn’t think that Martha rejected the news of the Savior. When their brother Lazarus died some time later, Martha confessed to Jesus and about Jesus, *“I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world”* (John 11:27). How did Martha get that trust? The same way Mary did, the same way we did! She received it through the Holy Spirit using the news about the Savior.

Martha had been hearing the Word of God – and kept taking it to heart! But that day she should have waited with getting dinner ready until after the Bible Class with Jesus had ended. It’s not that Jesus didn’t want her to make Him a meal. It’s that He wanted Martha to put first things first. *“Only one thing is needed.”*

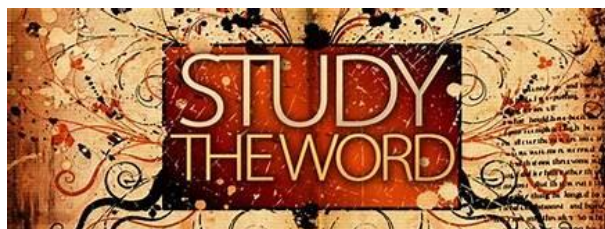
This month we resume numerous classes. The classes are for folks of all ages – from three years old to one day short of the grave. Some are meant mostly for members of our congregation; others are held primarily for those who haven’t had much Lutheran Bible instruction and want to know more about what the Word teaches. But all the classes focus on the *“one thing needed”*. Will we take advantage? Or are we too busy? Or not interested?

The Holy Spirit makes us both Marys and Marthas. First we hear the Word – like Mary here – and make the news about Christ the very highest priority every day. Then, we serve the Lord – like Martha here – and show Him our thanks as we live for Him and show love to each other.

A growing faith in Christ doesn’t remain hidden or inactive; it seeks ways to express its joy. As the Spirit keeps us connected to Christ, He also leads us to put our faith into action. That’s why we urge all our members to rededicate themselves to hearing the Word, studying God’s Word, serving the Lord. What wonderful blessings result from God’s working with the *“one thing needed”*!

May the Lord of the Church preserve His Word among us in its truth and purity! May the Lord of the Church bless us as we put the top priority on His truth and on serving Him in daily gratitude! See you in worship and Bible study, all centered around the *“one thing needed”*!

Pastor Voss





BAPTISMS On Monday, July 30, in a private Baptism ceremony attended by family members and our school staff, *Lynea Nichols* and her sons *Corbin, Linkin, and Jaxsin* were baptized in the name of the Triune God. The three boys are students in our school and preschool.



FOREVER WITH THE LORD! Our Savior has taken to Himself the soul of our sister in the faith *Emma Hepfer*. Her soul entered eternal life in heaven on August 21.

The Christian funeral service to comfort Emma’s family and friends was held at our church on August 24.

We ask our risen Savior Jesus to comfort Emma’s loved ones, and all others who mourn her death. But we also rejoice with them that Emma’s soul now is in the best place of all: at home with Jesus forever!

OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE continues this Labor Day weekend. *Sunday, September 2* we will worship at **9:00 AM**. There will also be an evening service on *Thursday, August 30 at 7:00* which will be the same as the following Sunday’s service.

WE RETURN TO OUR REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE on *Sunday, September 9*. Worship services will be held at **8:00** and **10:30** Sunday mornings beginning with that date. Join us!



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS sessions begin *September 9*.

We urge parents to send their children to Sunday School regularly. Our Sunday School is using the WELS religion curriculum *ChristLight*, which is coordinated with our Lutheran Elementary School Bible History lessons (also from *ChristLight*) to avoid repetition of material. ***Classes are for children 3 years old through 8th grade students.***

Parents, set a God-pleasing example and continue growing in your knowledge of God’s will by heading up the stairs to study God's Word when your children go down the stairs to do the same in their Sunday School classrooms.

THE ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC will be *Sunday, September 9*. The meal will feature grilled meat, as well as items our families brings for a meal in our school gym. We ask you to bring your own plates and silverware, as well. Beverages will be provided.

We want to have activities for everyone but we need volunteers to plan and help.



OUR SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL YEAR opened Monday, August 27 with a service at our school. This year we have 5 students in Preschool, 8 students in Kindergarten, and 20 students in Grades 1-5.

May the Lord of the Church bless the instruction from His Word and in secular subjects provided by our faculty to those students! May our gracious God keep parents and grandparents safe as they transport their children and grandchildren to and from our school each day!

Our theme this year is based on 1 Corinthians 2:2. Lift High the Cross!



THE LADIES FELLOWSHIP GROUP will resume monthly meetings **Monday, September 10 at 7:00 PM** in the church fellowship hall. We encourage all women of our congregation to attend. Our projects help others. We love to serve the Lord!



We are celebrating 30 years of fellowship and working together. For that we are going to host a pancake meal after worship services September 30 for our members. This will be held at school and we'll present a little entertainment after the meal. Come find out what all the

“buzz” is about with our group. A freewill donation will be taken with proceeds going to our mission projects.

THANKS

- To all who donated bottled water. Nearly 400 bottles were distributed at the National Night Out event last month.
- To all hosts for summer Sunday refreshment hours, including the three potluck refreshment hours.
- To all who helped in so many ways to get our school ready for the opening day of classes. Much work was done.
- To all who help in various ways behind the scenes to take care of what needs to be done at church and school. Your work is deeply appreciated.

COLLEGE STUDENTS, please submit your campus address, phone number, and e-mail address to Pastor Voss. If he has your e-mail address, he would be happy to send a copy of week's sermon to you electronically.

Even if you have previously submitted a college e-mail address to Pastor Voss, please do so once again so that we can be sure to have up-to-date information. Pastor Voss' e-mail address is revdavoss@gmail.com.

We wish you God's richest blessings on your studies!

USE OF CHURCH/SCHOOL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT: We remind you that members of the congregation may make use of our spacious school grounds, our tables and chairs, and our fellowship hall for picnic and family gatherings. Please contact Dennis Fisher (517-896-3949) to request a reservation of a facility and/or equipment.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS



PASTOR'S REPORT – On July 30, in a private Baptism ceremony attended by family members and our school staff, Lynea Nichols and her sons Corbin, Linkin, and Jaxsin were baptized in the name of the Triune God. What a joyful private service that was! The three boys are students in our school and preschool. As you see members of the Nichols family, please introduce yourself to them and welcome them!

WELS news Through the end of July, Congregation Mission Offerings across WELS are about \$370,000 behind the same period last year, and the CMO is just below the prorated subscription amounts from WELS congregations. Michigan District congregations have submitted about \$40,000 less this year than last year at the end of July; the CMO is slightly beneath prorated subscriptions for 2018.

Our Synod is excited about an unexpected opportunity that the Holy Spirit is opening for us to do mission work in Vietnam. Our school and preschool mission thankofferings for 2018-19 will be sent to that mission effort.

I have met several prospects recently, and will ask them in late August or early September about starting a new Bible Instruction Class with them.

Michigan District meetings will take me out of town from Tuesday morning, September 4 through that Thursday evening. As a result, three of our boards will have different meeting times for their September board meetings, actually meeting in late August.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – The board recommends that the VBS mission money collected at VBS be sent to the WELS Apache Mission, approximately \$341.00.

Projected Enrollment - (32) - Preschool: 4 Kindergarten: 8 1-5: 20
 Targeted Facebook marketing campaign July 14-20. Reached 25K users, 43K local impressions, and 36 link clicks. Very cost-effective way to reach a large number of area residents.
 Magnetic sign at church was used to promote VBS.
 Board continues to review monthly use of debit card and receipts, as well as log being used. Expenses and receipts continue to be verified each month.
 Upcoming events: School year opens Monday August 27, 2018; Family Night September 10, at 5:00pm
 The next PTO meeting will be September 10 and will include a meal.
 We will ask PTO to host Advent supper December 5 and Lent supper March 6.
 Thirty-eight children heard the Word of God July 23-26 at VBS. We thank our teachers and helpers.
 Sunday School - The board issued a call to Laurie Voss for SS music.

BOARD OF ELDERS – Pastor Voss was away Sunday, August 19. Retired Pastor David Krueger of Swartz Creek conducted the worship service here.

The Elders reviewed Thursday evening worship service attendance numbers. Though attendance numbers are low at times for this service, the board is committed to maintaining the service throughout our summer worship season.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We thank those who have submitted pictures to post on our congregation’s web site. There was discussion about seeking input from members and school families on our web site about their good experiences with our church and school.

Posting notices on our church and school Facebook pages has resulted in thousands of people liking and/or sharing those posts.

The board discussed the offer by WELS Evangelism to order 100 copies of the new DVD We Are Witnesses for just \$200, plus shipping. Given our congregation’s financial situation, we aren’t going to place an order for the DVDs.

The board discussed potluck refreshment hours held on three Sundays this summer. We may schedule fewer of the potluck refreshments next summer; the result of having three potluck dates this summer is that a number of families will have brought refreshments for four or more of these get-togethers.

We plan to have refreshments 9:05 – 9:25 the first Sunday of the month once Sunday School & Bible Class sessions resume. We will seek volunteers to host these.

Our thanks to all who participated in the parade on June 23.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – The Board of Christian Education is asking the Board of Trustees if the former upper grade classroom could be used exclusively for art instruction. This would allow our volunteer who teaches art each week to keep supplies out and ready to go without moving things each week. The Board of Trustees approves this request.

Discussed repairs being made to the ramp at the church.

Thank you Steve Houser for ongoing painting projects.

Preliminary discussions have begun on 2019 church budget, focusing on cutting costs.

Many thanks to everyone who helps with keeping the properties functioning and beautiful.

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR SEPTEMBER SERVICES:

	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Greeter(s)</i>	<i>Cleaners</i>
9/02 -	#8 D. Rector	K. Unruh	H&M Surtman	J. Muscott
9/09 - #2 V. Domke	#3 J. Janecke	T. Wood	D&S Fisher	C&A Rhodea
9/16 - #5 S. Houser	#1 T. Marion	R. Olin	S&G Houser	K&L Ward
9/23 - #6 E. Ruhlig	#4 B. Grinnell	M. Zoran	C. Douglas	J&J Staffeld
9/30 - #7 D. Kasischke	#9 D. Fisher	L. Voss	R&J Mosher	J&M Stiefel

